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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT,

1939.



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ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
M.R.S.I.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health :

P. G. HANCOX, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Resigned 26th Feb., 1939).

A. A. EDWARDS (Appointed 1st March, 1939).

County Council Offices,

Alton Street, Ross-on-Wye.

Telephone—Ross 214.

*Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor and
Housing Designated Officer :*

* † R. SHAW BATCHFORD, M.R.S.I.

* Holds Certificate of Royal San. Inst. as Sanitary Inspector.

† Holds Certificate of Royal San. Inst. for Meats and other Foods.

Council Chambers,

Broad Street, Ross-on-Wye.

Telephone—Ross 62.

Ross-on-Wye Urban District Council.

Public Health Department,

Alton Sreet,

Ross-on-Wye,

August 23rd, 1940.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ross-on-Wye Urban
District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1939, which is furnished in accordance with Circulars 1961 and 2067, of the Ministry of Health. The Report has been considerably abbreviated and is to be regarded only as an Interim Report.

I have to acknowledge the valuable assistance given to me by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. Shaw-Batchford, Mr. E. Moses, Clerk to the Council, and Mr. C. H. Caddick, Surveyor to the Council, not only in the preparation of this Report, but in the discharge of my duties throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HOGG,

Medical Officer of Health.

ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1939.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres): 1,004.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate
Books: 1,321.

Rateable Value: £31,167.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £130 5s. 7d.

The Urban District of Ross-on-Wye is a small market town, situated on the River Wye, and exists by supplying the demands of its residents, and those of the surrounding rural districts. No large scale industries exist, but there are a brewery, two grain mills, a timber yard and a boot factory which provide some employment. The town has a considerable reputation as a holiday centre for the Wye Valley, and there are several large hotels which are well patronised from April until the beginning of October. Catering for the needs of the visitors provides some employment during the summer months. A cattle market is held in the town every alternate Tuesday.

Unemployment.

The number of unemployed persons in the district during the year showed a satisfactory improvement upon the figures for 1938.

There is, however, no direct evidence to show that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of either adults or children.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

A list of officers of the Public Health Department is given on Page 1.

Laboratory Facilities.

For detailed description see Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1938.

The following is a summary of the number of specimens

examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, during the year:—

Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	78
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	226
Swabs for Organisms	1
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	34
Blood for Brucella Abortus	2
Blood for Enteric Fevers	26
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for organisms	2
Pus for Tubercle Bacilli	1
Urine for Tubercle Bacilli	1
Urine for Coli Typhoid Organisms	3
Faeces for Dysentery Bacilli	2
Faeces for Coli Typhoid Organisms	28
Milk for Haemolytic Streptococci	30
Milk for Coli Typhoid	11
Ice-Cream for Enteric Fever	1
Sausage for Enteric Fever	1
Cream for Enteric Fever	1
Water:—	
Chemical Examinations	7
Bacteriological Examinations	10
	<hr/>
TOTAL	465

Last year the total number of specimens examined was 209.

Ambulance Facilities.

In February, the new headquarters of the Ross-on-Wye Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade was formally opened. The premises situated in Edde Cross Street, near the centre of the town, consist of garage for the ambulance and lecture rooms. Whilst the buildings are of modern design and admirable for their purpose, the general appearance remains pleasing to the eye. The cost of these buildings was £1,200, the whole of the sum being raised by voluntary subscriptions within eight months.

In all other respects the ambulance facilities remain as described in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1938.

Nursing in the Home.

For details see Annual Report for 1938.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

For particulars see Annual Report for 1938.

Hospitals.

When necessary, cases of notifiable disease are removed to the Isolation Hospital of the Hereford Rural District Council at Stretton Sugwas, Hereford, by the motor ambulance stationed at the Hospital.

The Council have agreed to pay for the treatment of cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis admitted by the Medical Officer of Health to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, such liability of the Council to be limited to ambulance charges and to a period of six weeks, i.e., for the period during which the disease is regarded as being infectious.

The Public Assistance Institution situated in Alton Street has a hospital for medical cases, and maternity wards.

In addition there is the Ross Cottage Hospital, a voluntary Hospital with 16 beds.

Blood Donor Service.

Early in 1939, a blood donor service was inaugurated in connection with the Ross-on-Wye Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Under this scheme 22 volunteers were selected as donors, and blood taken from each was tested with the Wassermann Reaction, and for the appropriate blood group. All blood groups were thus represented in the selected donors who are available for blood transfusions when required. Although the number of donors may seem small, it is more than adequate for the requirements of the area.

Mortuary Accommodation.

A small Mortuary with two chambers is provided by the Council at the Council's Yard. the management of this building throughout the year has been entirely satisfactory.

SECTION C.: SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.

A detailed account of the water supply of the area was given in the Annual Report for the year 1938, and as there have been no new sources of supply during the year, the Water Supplies remain unchanged.

During the year the only extension of the mains was the installation of a 6 inch bye-pass feeder at Alton Court. Throughout the year samples of the water have been taken by the Department at regular intervals and sent to the County and City

Laboratory, Hereford, for chemical or bacteriological examination. In all, seven samples were sent for chemical examination and ten samples for bacteriological examination, and of these only one was found not to conform to the usual high standard of quality of the water. This was a sample taken from a disused tap, and when a new fitting was installed the quality of the water resumed its normal bacteriological standard.

I am satisfied that the quality of the drinking water supply is of a very high standard and appears to be more than adequate for the requirements of the area.

A copy of the analyst's report upon every sample of water taken by this Department is forwarded to the Manager of the Ross Water Undertaking for his information so as to secure the closest collaboration between the Department and the Water Undertaking.

There are three shallow wells in the District still in use.

Drainage and Sewerage.

For description of the sewerage system see the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1938.

During the year, 8 new drains were laid, of which 2 were in connection with the erection of new houses and the remaining 6 being reconstructions and additions to existing premises other than dwelling houses. One dwelling house, previously drained into a septic tank was connected to the sewers.

All new drains were examined and tested by the Sanitary Inspector.

Rivers and Streams.

As a result of flooding of the River Wye, 16 carcasses of animals carried down by the stream which were in an offensive condition were removed from the river bank in the Rope Walk and Long Acre Meadow and buried. In addition accumulations of refuse were removed from the surface of the River, and every endeavour being made to protect the public health and preserve the appearance of the river.

The One Mill and the Brookend Dams caused a certain amount of nuisance during the year. In particular, water at the One Mill Dam was held stagnant for long periods of the dry summer months, little or no water passing down the water course, as the mill race belonging to the Ross Water Undertaking exerts a considerable drain upon the available water during these periods.

Public Cleansing.

The Council undertakes a weekly collection of household refuse throughout the District and trade refuse is also collected on the payment of special charge. The refuse carts in use are of an old pattern not provided with covers, and are very unsuitable for their purpose, as refuse is prone to fall into the streets and during high winds the lighter refuse is blown away.

All refuse disposal in the District is carried out by tipping; the Town tip being situated just outside the Urban District boundary. Every care is taken to prevent nuisance arising from the tip by covering with earth and limiting as much as possible the uncovered portion of refuse.

During the year the Council has endeavoured to secure the provision of a sanitary dust-bin for every house in the District, the necessity for such action was made clear in the Annual Report for 1938. Approximately 250 such bins were provided during the year as a result of informal action by the Department. However, there are many dwellings when an approved ash-bin still requires to be provided and the efforts of the Department will continue in this direction. Old boxes and tins as containers of refuse are most insanitary and cause considerable nuisance.

In order to secure improved street cleaning, the Council purchased three street orderly trucks, which consist of a hand-truck equipped with two detachable covered dust containers. The object of this purchase was to dispense with the former system whereby heaps of road sweepings were left lying in the road to await collection by the carts, under the new system, road sweepings are immediately placed into the street orderly trucks. The new system has maintained the streets in a more cleanly condition than formerly.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspection of the area is carried out by Mr. R. Shaw Batchford, M.R.S.I., who is a whole time officer of the Council, and holds the office of Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor. I take this opportunity to place on record my appreciation of the valuable help which Mr. Batchford has at all times given me in connection with the work of the Department.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

I am indebted to Mr. R. Shaw Batchford for the following statement furnished under Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

Inspections of :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	32
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	26
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	28
Factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	...	20
Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	...	21
Housing (including demolition)	...	...	...	...	155
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	160
Markets	...	...	...	...	52
Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	3
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	2000
Public Health Acts Visits	...	...	...	...	300
Total					2797

Notices Issued :—

Informal	...	...	...	...	281
Statutory, re Housing	...	...	...	...	1
Statutory, under other Acts	...	...	...	...	5
Total					287

Defects Remedied :—

Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	250
New drains provided	...	...	...	...	8
New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	4
Stopped drains cleared	...	...	...	...	8
Defective drains improved	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	8
Housing defects remedied	...	...	...	...	1
Total					281

Common Lodging Houses.

There are three registered common lodging houses in the district, all are regularly inspected and have been kept in a satisfactory manner throughout the year.

Factories and Workplaces.

During the year 41 inspections of Factories were made, of these, 20 were visits to Factories with mechanical power, and the remainder to factories without mechanical power. On one

occasion, a defective sanitary convenience was found, this was remedied after service of a notice upon the occupier.

Outworkers' premises are regularly inspected and throughout the year were found to be satisfactory.

Shops and Offices.

No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936, in connection with these premises.

Camping Sites.

There is little camping within the Urban District, most of the camping sites being situated in the adjoining Rural District.

The number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1939 1

The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 1

The estimated maximum campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season 1939 100

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There were no houses owned by the Council found to be infested with bed bugs, and this is proof that the treatment with hydrogen cyanide of furniture and belongings of tenants for houses on the Three Crosses Estate has been effective. These measures were described in detail in the Annual Report for 1938.

However, three other dwelling houses were found to be infested and disinfestation was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector by means of Cimex.

Fifteen houses which were known to be infested, and which were due for demolition were treated with Zaldecide and Fuminol, as the walls were too porous to permit the use of a gaseous disinfectant. When demolition was accomplished no trace of live bugs could be found, but this does not necessarily mean that the material was free from infestation as the ova may have survived this treatment. I am convinced that the only certain method of eradicating the bed bug is by the use of Hydrogen

Cyanide, which in the hands of experts is safe and efficient. The Council employs contractors when Hydrogen Cyanide is used for this purpose, at other times, disinfestation is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector using either singly or in combination Zaldecide, Cimex, Fuminol and Thermatax. Whilst these preparations are undoubtedly useful, Hydrogen Cyanide still remains the most certain and effective agent.

Schools.

During the year the Junior Mixed Council School and the Senior Mixed Council School, were closed for two weeks from the 14th July until the 28th July inclusive, on account of the prevalence of 'Scarlet Fever.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Very little progress was made in housing matters. In a remote part of the District, a man was found to be living in an improvised shelter erected with corrugated sheeting, without water supply and sanitary accommodation. A Statutory Notice was served under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 268, and the shelter was demolished.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	18
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	55
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	12
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	43
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	16

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	1
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	36
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV., Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	7
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	7
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	37
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	23
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

SECTION E.: INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply

There were 5 wholesale purveyors and 16 retail purveyors registered with the Local Authority at the end of the year. Considerable attention was devoted by the Department to milk supplies on account of the prevalence of Scarlet Fever and later

Para-typhoid Fever. Particulars of the number of samples of milk and milk products submitted for bacteriological examination are shown in Section B. (Laboratory Facilities) of this report. One sample of milk was found to contain haemolytic streptococci and by elimination this milk was traced to one cow which was isolated from the herd. Further examination showed that this haemolytic streptococcus did not belong to Lancefield's Group A and examination of the cow by a veterinary surgeon failed to reveal any pathological condition in the animal.

There can be no doubt that this milk supply did not contribute to the incidence of Scarlet Fever in the District. However, investigation by the Department of milk supplies in connection with the outbreak of Para-typhoid Fever was much more successful being ultimately traced to milk infected by a carrier.

For further details see Section F of this Report.

Meat and Other Foods.

At the beginning of the year, the attention of the Council was drawn to the need of a small Public Abattoir, but after a preliminary report the Council decided that the cost of such a scheme was beyond the means of a small town, and the Council brought the proposal to the notice of the local meat traders.

The Sanitary Inspector regularly attends the markets, and during his attendance 1,921 poultry carcasses, and 488 rabbit carcasses were examined during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ...	608	—	76	2263	890
Number inspected ...	608	—	76	2263	890
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	1	12	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	19	—	—	9	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis ...	3.8	—	1.31	0.94	1.46
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	—	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	11	—	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	1.97	—	—	—	1.01

Other Food found to be Unfit for Human Consumption.

- 4 Poultry Carcases.
- 6 Rabbit Carcases.
- 21 pounds Prawns.
- 12 pounds Cherries.
- 4½ pounds Herring Roes.

Pasteurised Milk is not sold in the District, there being no pasteurisation plant available.

SECTION F.: PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year an increase in the prevalence of notifiable disease was experienced. The total number of notifications received was 67 and of this number 53 were received between the 1st July and 30th November, the increase being on account of Scarlet Fever and Para-typhoid Fever.

From the beginning of the year until the end of the second quarter, only five cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, but 38 cases were notified in the second half of the year. The chief sufferers were children between five and ten years of age, although a few adults contracted the disease. The disease was of a mild type, and there were no deaths. Great efforts were made by the Department to limit the prevalence of the disease, and the schools were closed from 14th July, until the 28th July, largely in deference to the demand of parents, as school closure in urban areas as a general rule does not exert much influence upon the spread of Scarlet Fever. The truth of this statement was shown in the continued occurrence of cases notwithstanding the closure of the schools and Sunday Schools for a period of two weeks.

In my opinion, it is probable that missed cases played an important part in the increased prevalence of Scarlet Fever.

Out of a total of 43 cases of Scarlet Fever, 15 cases were admitted to Hospital, and in some cases which were nursed at home, hospital treatment was desirable, but the accommodation available at the Hospital was insufficient to meet the demand in full. The existing hospital accommodation is somewhat small, but I am satisfied that the standard of nursing and medical treatment provided at the Hospital is high, and I have always received the greatest co-operation and assistance from the Medical Superintendent, the Administrative Officer and Staff of the Hospital.

Considerable attention was given by the Department to milk supplies, whilst cases of Scarlet Fever continued to be notified, and altogether 30 samples of milk from purveyors in the District were submitted for bacteriological examination. In

only one instance was a Haemolytic Streptococcus found to be present in a sample. By elimination, the infected milk was traced to one cow in a herd, and on being tested for Groups, it was shown that this Haemolytic Streptococcus did not belong to Lancefield's Group A. At the same time, throat swabs were taken from all persons on the farm, and cultured, but in every instance no streptococci were grown. Finally, the cow in question was examined by a veterinary surgeon, who could find no morbid condition in the animal.

There can be no doubt that this milk supply was in no way responsible for the increased prevalence of Scarlet Fever, nevertheless the findings are interesting.

In the third quarter of the year there was a small outbreak of Para-typhoid Fever, altogether nine cases were notified in the Urban District, but two were notified from the adjoining Rural District. Full details of this outbreak are contained in the following report which was submitted to the Council:

On 14th August, 1939, a case of Para-typhoid Fever was notified in the Urban District. The diagnosis of this case—to be referred to as Case (1)—was subsequently confirmed by Widal Reaction, and the organism identified as that of Para-typhoid B. As no other case of this infection was known to the Department, a very full investigation was made of the case, but nothing was discovered to indicate the origin of the infection. At the same time the milk supply was investigated. Samples taken from all purveyors to the infected household were found to be quite satisfactory and free from the Para-typhoid organism.

Another case (2) was notified on the 26th August, and a further case (3) on the 29th August, in different households in the Urban District. As the investigation of these cases enabled the Department to obtain additional information, it was hoped that the origin of the outbreak would be traced. Unfortunately, however, these hopes were not justified. Two facts were nevertheless apparent: firstly, that the same butcher supplied all three households, and secondly, that the same medical practitioner was in attendance on each case.

A visit was therefore paid to the premises of the butcher in question, and it was established that the condition of the premises and the methods used were satisfactory. All members of the staff were ascertained to be employees of long service, with no history of recent illness. Nevertheless, specimens of blood and stools were obtained from each, and on examination all were found to be free from infection by Para-typhoid. Since it then appeared that investigation of the second factor might indicate the source of infection, specimens of blood, stools and urine were taken from the doctor concerned. On examination, all specimens were found to be free from infection, and the position consequently remained by no means clear.

Consideration was then directed to the question of the milk supplies to each infected household. The information obtained from the householders was as follows:—

Case.		Identification of Milk Purveyors.					
1.	...	A ₁	A ₂	B	—	X ₂	
2.	...	—	—	—	—	X ₂	
3.	...	A ₁	—	—	X ₁	—	C

From the foregoing it appeared that no purveyor supplied all three households, and since there was no history of contact between any of the three cases their origin remained obscure.

No further cases occurred until the 23rd September, when another case was notified (4). Further cases were notified on the 25th (5), 26th (6) and 27th (7) of the same month, respectively. Case (6) occurred in the Rural District of Ross and Whitechurch. On the 30th September two further notifications were received—(8) and (9)—the former occurring in the same household as case (7).

The nature of the spread of the disease suggested that a carrier was probably infecting some article of food common to all cases, and milk was considered to be the most probable article. Also the infectivity of the food appeared to be intermittent. Nevertheless, the information available did not appear to support this view, as is shown by the following table:—

Case.	Identification of Milk Purveyors (as stated by Householders).							
1.	A ₁	A ₂	B	—	X ₂	—	—	—
2.	—	—	—	—	X ₂	—	—	—
3.	A ₁	—	—	X ₁	—	C	—	—
4.	—	—	—	X ₁	—	—	—	—
5.	—	—	—	X ₁	—	—	—	—
6.	—	—	—	—	X ₂	—	D	—
7.	A ₁	—	—	X ₁	—	—	—	E
8.	A ₁	—	—	X ₁	—	—	—	E
9.	—	—	—	X ₁	—	—	—	—

In addition to milk consumed at home, there was a history in every case of milk or milk products having been consumed at a refreshment establishment in the Urban District supplied by milk purveyor A₁. It was also apparent that purveyor X₁ supplied five of the households and purveyor X₂, three of the households. It was, therefore, decided to investigate thoroughly the milk from purveyors A₁, X₁ and X₂, all three of whom are registered producers in the Rural District.

As the establishment in the Urban District had only been operating for a short time, it was decided to investigate the conditions at the premises in the first instance. The inspection showed that conditions were very satisfactory as regards sanitation, cleanliness and the methods of handling and preparing food-stuffs. The staff appeared to be in excellent health, and specimens of blood from each individual member of the staff were found to be free from infection. Samples of the milk and milk products taken from these premises were also found entirely satisfactory on bacteriological examination. The investigation was, however, carried further, and conditions at the farm supplying the premises were carefully examined with the result that the milk supply of purveyor A₁ was proved to be entirely satisfactory.

The investigation was then carried to the premises of purveyors X₁ and X₂, where in both cases the sanitary condition and methods of handling the milk were found to be satisfactory. It was, however, learned that no milk was supplied by purveyor X₂ to any of the infected households, in spite of the fact that the householders had stated that their supplies were obtained from this dairy.

This information necessitated a revision in the list of milk supplies to the infected households, which now reads as follows:

Case.	Identification of Milk Purveyor (as amended).							
1.	A ₁	A ₂	B	X ₁	—	—	—	—
2.	—	—	—	X ₁	—	—	—	—
3.	A ₁	—	—	X ₁	—	C	—	—
4.	—	—	—	X ₁	—	—	—	—
5.	—	—	—	X ₁	—	—	—	—
6.	—	—	—	X ₁	—	—	D	—
7.	A ₁	—	—	X ₁	—	—	—	E
8.	A ₁	—	—	X ₁	—	—	—	E
9.	—	—	—	X ₁	—	—	—	—

It was therefore obvious from the above that the one milk supply common to all infected households was X₁, leading to the conclusion that this was the infected source of supply. On investigation, a history of an illness (in July, 1939) of one person who was engaged in handling of milk was obtained. The illness did not at the time appear to be very typical of Para-typhoid Fever, but it was ascertained to have developed between two and three weeks after a visit to a town in another county, in which Para-typhoid Fever had been notified earlier in the year. As a matter of precaution, the person was immediately prohibited from engaging in milking and the handling of milk and

milk vessels. In addition, specimens of blood were taken from each employee on the farm and sent for examination on the 30th September.

On the same day, the laboratory report on the examination of the blood of the suspected person was received, and showed recent infection with Para-typhoid B. This report therefore strongly supported the view that the suspected person, who had been ill during the month of July, had in fact been suffering from Para-typhoid Fever, and was now a carrier. He was advised accordingly, and cautioned against engaging in any occupation concerned with the preparation of foodstuffs.

It now remained to show that this person was a carrier of Para-typhoid Bacilli, and specimens of urine and stools were subsequently sent for bacteriological examination. All were reported as being free from infection with Para-typhoid until 23rd October, when both stools and urine yielded a growth of the specific organism.

Two further cases of Para-typhoid Fever were notified on the 10th October, 1939, the disease having been contracted before the source of infection was ascertained. Since that date, however, no further cases have been notified.

Points of special interest in connection with this outbreak must be noted:—

(1) The specific organism of the disease was never isolated from the infected milk.

(2) The outbreak would not have occurred if the milk had previously been efficiently pasteurised.

(3) Certain householders do not appear to know from whom they obtain their milk.

(4) Householders frequently obtain milk from more than one purveyor.

The investigation of this outbreak threw a great deal of additional work on the Department, and upon the Staff of the County and City Public Health Laboratory, and I appreciate very much the assistance rendered by Dr. M. E. Hocken, Deputy County Medical Officer and Staff of the Laboratory, and the Sanitary Inspectors of the Urban and Rural Districts.

A special effort was made by the Department to immunise children in the area against diphtheria, altogether 241 children received injections of immunisation material. 210 of these children being over the age of five years and the remainder (31) being under school age.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year, 1939.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Smallpox	—	—
Scarlet Fever	43	15
Diphtheria	3	3
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid)	9	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—
Pneumonia	3	—
Erysipelas	4	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—

Analysis of the Total Notified Cases According to age.

Disease	AGE GROUPS.												Totals.
	Un- der 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	4	2	23	3	1	6	1	1	1	43
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	3
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4
Puerperal Pyrexia.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Para-typhoid	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	2	2	1	9
TOTALS	2	2	—	5	2	26	5	3	8	4	4	6	67

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1938 there were 21 cases of Tuberculosis on the Register, 12 being cases of pulmonary and 9 cases of non-pulmonary disease. During the year 1939, three cases of pulmonary and 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were added to the Register. There were seven names removed in the course of the year, and on 31st December, 10 cases of pulmonary and 9 cases of non-pulmonary disease remained on the Register.

Tuberculosis—New Cases, 1939.

Age Periods.	New Cases.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- ...	—	—	—	—
1- ...	—	—	1	—
5- ...	—	—	—	1
15- ...	1	—	—	—
25- ...	—	1	—	—
35- ...	1	—	—	—
45- ...	—	—	—	—
55- ...	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	1	1	1

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

I am indebted to Mr. F. J. Parsons, Meteorologist-in-Charge, the Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, for the following Meteorological Report for the year 1939: —

The usual tables of statistics are appended:—

Air Temperature (Degrees F.)

Month.		Mean.	Difference from Normal.	Extremes.	
				Maximum.	Minimum.
January	...	40.9	+1.5	55	21
February	...	43.2	+3.2	57	24
March	...	43.9	+1.3	62	30
April	...	48.1	+1.0	72	32
May	...	52.9	—0.4	74	38
June	...	58.4	—0.2	84	40
July	...	59.2	—2.7	71	41
August	...	61.7	+0.9	76	42
September	...	57.3	+0.7	78	35
October	...	46.9	+2.6	63	26
November	...	48.9	+5.3	60	30
December	...	37.9	—2.4	55	20
Year		49.9	+0.5	84 (June 6) 20 (Dec. 30)	

Ground Temperature (Degrees F.)

Month.		Means.		Number of Nights with Ground Frost (30 F. or less).	Lowest Temp. on Grass.
		One Foot Depth.	Four Foot Depth.		
January	...	40.6	44.2	10	10
February	...	41.1	43.7	13	13
March	...	43.3	44.9	10	18
April	...	48.3	47.1	14	19
May	...	53.0	50.3	2	27
June	...	59.6	55.9	1	29
July	...	60.7	57.5	0	36
August	...	62.7	59.5	0	37
September	...	59.4	59.9	3	27
October	...	49.4	54.0	8	20
November	...	47.4	50.2	2	23
December	...	41.2	46.8	15	12

Rainfall (in inches).

Month.		Total Fall 1939.	Difference from Normal.	Number of Rain Days (.005 inch or more).
January	...	5.67	+3.13	20
February	...	1.39	—0.63	14
March	...	1.23	—1.14	13
April	...	2.53	+0.60	15
May	...	0.71	—1.40	8
June	...	1.61	—0.31	15
July	...	3.95	+1.68	20
August	...	1.96	—0.56	16
September	...	0.57	—1.55	5
October	...	2.35	—0.84	16
November	...	4.23	+1.56	20
December	...	1.44	—1.29	15
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Year	...	27.64	—0.75	177

Bright Sunshine (Hours and 10ths).

Month.		Total 1939.	Difference from Normal.	Best Day's Record.	Sunless Days.
January	...	43.3	—10.8	7.3	12
February	...	87.2	+17.3	9.2	5
March	...	80.0	—33.6	8.4	5
April	...	176.9	+31.8	13.2	4
May	...	194.2	+ 6.0	15.3	3
June	...	217.4	+13.4	15.6	3
July	...	124.1	—66.0	9.7	0
August	...	170.8	—10.3	12.7	0
September	...	140.8	+ 2.5	10.6	1
October	...	108.1	+10.2	9.3	5
November	...	44.2	—19.0	5.7	12
December	...	48.8	— 0.7	6.6	15
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Year	...	1435.8	—59.2	15.6 (June 5)	65

Among inland resorts, Ross occupied fourth place for sunshine in 1939, being beaten by Tonbridge Wells, Bath and Cheltenham, by less than 4 hours in the case of the last-named place.

The winter months show Ross to best advantage, the totals during January, February, November and December challenging comparison with most of the well known seaside resorts.

